

PHYSICAL MATCH

It is possible to examine fractured, torn or cut items to determine whether or not they at one time formed a single, intact item. These items may include broken car parts, knives, tapes, lenses, boards, etc. Each piece of the item in question should be packaged separately taking care to avoid any further damage to the fractured surfaces of the pieces.

- Package each item in question separately taking care to avoid any further damage to the fractured, cut, torn, or severed surface.
- Mark each package where the item(s) was/were located.
- Submit all rolls of tape found. If the questioned or known tape must be cut, specify which area/end(s) was/were cut by labeling those ends.
- Submit all pieces found at the scene involving a vehicle.
- Collect clothing (not just shoes) from subjects for glass examination.
- Collect glass samples from all broken sources of glass at a scene.
- Package glass from different sources and locations separately.
- Place fragments in plastic containers, then in bags or envelopes, seal, and mark.
- Mark the inside and outside of glass from laminated glass sources such as windshields.
- Place large glass shards in bags or boxes, but separate individual pieces with newspaper to prevent breakage and damage to edges. Mark inside or outside of glass and pack together in a single marked container.
- Don't package small glass fragments in paper envelopes or bags without first being placed in leak proof containers.
- Don't attempt to reconstruct items. This may obliterate fine microscopic details used in comparison.
- Don't process items for latent prints prior to submitting.